



Getting Help Using the FamilySearch Research Wiki

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WHAT IS THE WIKI?

The Research Wiki is a free, online genealogical guide that lists websites, explains records, gives research strategies, and suggests other resources to help you find your ancestors from countries around the world. The Research Wiki is a community project, and anyone can contribute to it.

HOW TO ACCESS:

- You can access the Wiki by using the URL: <https://www.wiki.familysearch.org>
- Or, go to <https://www.familysearch.org> and access the Wiki through the Get Help menu.



FamilySearch Research Wiki

A free, online genealogy and family history guide that lists websites, provides research strategies, and suggests all over the world.

Current number of Wiki articles: **89,014**



WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE WIKI?

- Genealogy databases and online resources
- Genealogy strategies and guidance
- Explanation of genealogy record types and their uses
- Locality pages for countries, states, counties and parishes with relevant resources
- Topic pages about genealogy, such as, Organize Your Genealogy


GUIDES TO USING THE WIKI:

- **GUIDED HELP:** Use the Guided help feature located at the top of each Wiki page to learn what the Wiki is, how to navigate, and locate helpful Wiki pages. Click on the blue box with the white question mark beside the words, “Guided Help” at the top of Wiki pages to see a list of Wiki tours.
- **WIKI WIZARD VIDEOS:** There are now 5-minute videos on how to do genealogy research using Wiki pages created for several countries. To see a list of current videos, go to the Getting Started menu on the left side of the screen on all Wiki pages and click on, Research Resources. Or, use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wiki_Wizard_Videos
- **WIKI UNIVERSITY:** The Wiki University contains lessons and instructions on how to edit the Wiki. Go to the Getting Started menu on the left side of the screen on all Wiki pages and click on the link, Wiki University. Or, use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Help:Wiki_University_Tutorial

STRATEGY TO USING THE WIKI:

- **DON'T LOOK BY NAME:** You won't find information about individuals in the Wiki, but you will find links to databases that may contain information about your ancestor.
- **DO SEARCH BY LOCATION:** Search the Research Wiki by location, such as a country, state, county, or parish.
- **CHECK ALL JURISDICTIONS:** Start on the country page and work your way down to lower jurisdictions, if known. For example, start at United States and go down to Ohio; then, check the county level.
- **CHECK ALL RECORD TYPES:** See what record types are available and review them to see the type of information given and resources to find them.
- **USE LINKS TO DATABASES:** The Research Wiki links to free and subscription databases and includes large databases as well as small local databases. Subscription database links are indicated by a dollar sign.
- **WORK IN PROGRESS:** The Wiki is a work in progress! Keep coming back to the Research Wiki to see what information is added. If it's not there today, a link to the database with your missing ancestor may be in there tomorrow!

NAVIGATING THE WIKI:

- **TO NAVIGATE:** Navigate by using the Wiki Search box, breadcrumbs, Table of Contents links, and internal links.
- **COUNTRY/STATE SIDEBARS:** Sidebars found on a country/state page contain all topic pages relating to that place and can include record types, background information and local resources.
- **EXTERNAL LINKS:** External links are indicated by a blue arrow at the end of the link:
 When clicked on, they open a new tab in the browser and exit the Wiki to the new website.
- **INTERNAL LINKS:** Internal links do not have a blue arrow and when clicked on navigate to a new Wiki page. To go back to a Wiki page, use the back arrow on the browser.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE WIKI:

- **SUBMIT WIKI CONTENT LINK:** You can provide information to be added to the Wiki by one of our volunteers, by using the Submit Wiki Content link. It is listed under the Getting Started menu found on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page.
- **REPORT A PROBLEM LINK:** If you find a broken link or other errors in the Wiki, use the Report a Problem link to let us know the problem. One of our volunteers to fix the problem. This link is listed under the Getting Started menu found on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page.
- **REQUEST EDITING RIGHTS:** To request to edit the Wiki, locate the sentence at the top of any Wiki page, "To request editing rights on the Wiki, click here" and click on, "here." Fill out the form and in about 48 hours you will receive an email stating your status. Editing directly to the Wiki allows you to make real time edits using either the VisualEditor or wikitext.

HELPFUL WIKI PAGES USED FOR RESEARCH:

- **RESEARCH RESOURCES:** Links to Wiki pages regarding beginning genealogy, Wiki Wizard Videos, research forms, date calculator and other genealogy resources and tools. This page is found under the Getting Started menu on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page called, Research Resources. Or, use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Research_Resources
- **ONLINE GENEALOGY RECORDS WIKI PAGES:** Country or state-wide databases listed by topic all on one page. Links go to free and subscription websites. They are found as blue buttons on country and other Wiki pages. A master list of these pages is found under the Getting Started menu on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page called, Online Genealogy Records. Or, use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location
- **ASK THE COMMUNITY WIKI PAGE:** This purple button is a link to the Wiki page lists links to both FamilySearch Community and Facebook FamilySearch Genealogy Research Groups. They are arranged by locality. In these groups, you can ask questions to the community/group to get assistance with your research problems. This button is located on all country/state pages. Or use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Genealogy_Research_Groups

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